



RICAT

Rhode Island Council
on Assistive Technology

Fact Sheet

What is RICAT? *RICAT*, the RI Council on Assistive Technology, is the partner of and advisory body to the RI program funded through the Assistive Technology Act (“Tech Act”). *RICAT* is actively involved in legislative and other initiatives to increase the access to assistive technology for Rhode Islanders.

RICAT Mission Statement: “*RICAT*...promoting and supporting availability of assistive technology for people with disabilities.”

Some of our accomplishments:

- Developed a working partnership with the Rhode Island program, Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP), to remove barriers to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities.
- Helped expand the RI re-used (recycled) equipment network.
- Helped design and disseminate a consumer protection brochure “A Guide to Purchasing Hearing Aids in RI”.
- Helped pass the Amendment to the Hearing Aid Fitters & Dealers Legislation expanding consumer protections.
- Helped pass the RI “Lemon Law” (Assistive Technology Device Warranties Act).
- Collaborated with RI legislature to become the first state in the nation requiring statewide availability of Braille and tactile ballots in all elections.
- Supported legislation requiring private health insurer coverage for hearing aids, for persons under 65.
- Supported installation of Amerimark voting equipment at RI polls.
- Supported RI participation in the New England Device Exchange.

For further information, contact Kathleen Burrell at
(401) 421-7005 (ext. 373), (401) 421-7016 (TTY) or via email at kburrell@ors.ri.gov.

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How the Council Works

1. Meetings are presided over by the Council Chairperson.
2. The agenda is developed by the Council Chairperson in cooperation with the Executive Committee and Program Director. Members with items for the agenda may call or email with suggestions two weeks prior to the meeting.
3. All Council meetings are open to the public. Matters discussed at meetings are not confidential. However, the Council may go into an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.
4. The work of RICAT is accomplished through several committees: Executive, Membership/Outreach, Legislative, Communications, By-laws, Alternative Finance, and Partner Support.